HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 135731 PRINTER: LI **EXCISE**
80 KINGSTON 4450

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL **DECLASSIFIED**
PAGE 01 KINGST 04450 210528Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 EUR-12 /086 W
095924 210839Z /16-12

R 181320Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3323
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4450
E.O. 12065: GDS 6/17/86 (LAWRENCE, L.) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: POLITICAL MANEUVERING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: IT IS BEGINNING TO APPEAR THAT THE RULING PARTY IS BEING VERY LETHARGIC IN GETTING ITS ELECTORAL MACHINERY ROLLING. SOME SPECULATE THAT THE PARTY IS NOT REALLY CONCENTRATING ON THE ENUMERATION PHASE, BUT INTENDS TO MOUNT A "FOOD AND FEAR" CAMPAIGN LATER. MEANWHILE, POLLSTER CARL STONE'S LATEST FIGURES INDICATE FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNING PARTY. END SUMMARY.
3. IN OUR VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH POLITICIANS AND OTHERS, IT IS BEGINNING TO APPEAR THAT DESPITE ITS REPUTATION FOR POLITICAL SKILL AND ORGANIZATION, THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) IS TRAILING FAR BEHIND THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) IN GEARING UP FOR THE COMING ELECTION. WE REPORTED LAST WEEK (KINGSTON 4359 THAT MANLEY SEEMED TO BE MOVING TO GAIN THE INITIATIVE. BUT HIS ACTIONS --RESTORING NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER THOMPSON TO HIS JOB, MOVING TO CENSURE SEAGA IN PARLIAMENT, AND HOLDING A BIG MID-KINGSTON RALLY -- HAVE ALL BACKFIRED. [redacted]

b(1) EP

[redacted] THE JLP IS LOOKING WITH RELISH TO THE DEBATE ON THE CENSURE MOVE, FIGURING THAT MANLEY WILL LOSE PPOINTS AS THEY WILL HAMMER IN THE THEME THAT HE HAS LOST CONTROL TO THE LEFT. AND THE BIG RALLY, ACCORDING TO JAMAICA'S MOST RESPECTED POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, CARL STONE, WHO ATTENDED, WAS THE SMALLEST AND LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC PNP RALLY HE HAD EVER ATTENDED. NO TV COVERAGE SAVED IT.
4. TWO JLP CANDIDATES [redacted]

b(1) EP

[redacted] HAVE DESCRIBED A FUMBLING EFFORT BY THE PNP IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENICES. THE PNP SCRUTINEERS (POLLWATCHERS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO WATCH OUT FOR THEIR PARTY'S INTERESTS IN

HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 135731 PRINTER: LI
80 KINGSTON 4450

CONFIDENTIAL

THE ENUMERATION/REGISTRATION) HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE MOSTLY INCOMPETENT WHEN THEY SHOW UP AT ALL. MANY OF THEM ARE ILLITERATE. FOR ITS PART, THE JLP PAID A LOT OF ATTENTION TO FINDING GOOD SCRUTINEERS. THE PNP HAS ALSO BEEN REMISS IN DOING ITS POLITICAL LEGWORK, [redacted] HE HAS BEEN WORKING FROM A MASTER LIST OF PERSONS IN THE CONSTITUENCY, PREPARED AFTER SLOGGING HARD CANVASSING OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THE PNP HAS DONE LITTLE CANVASSING, [redacted] AND HAS NO INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO CHECK THE ELECTORAL LISTS. THE ABOVE INFORMATION, OF COURSE, IS FROM BIASED SOURCES AND ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR TWO CONSTITUENCIES, PUT THE APOLITICAL [redacted] ALSO NOTED THIS INITIAL SEEMING LETHARGY ON THE PART OF THE PNP.

5. [redacted] ARE PUZZLED BY THE SLOW PNP START. THE PARTY HAS MONEY, MANY MORE PROFESSIONALS THAN THE JLP, AND HAS THE RESOURCES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CALL UPON. [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] THAT PNP PARTY SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN HAS EVIDENTLY DECIDED THAT IT IS NOT WORTHWHILE TO SPEND MUCH EFFORT ON THE ENUMERATION PHASE. THE REAL PNP STRATEGY, ACCORDING [redacted] IS SIMPLE: FEAR AND FOOD. THE JLP HAS LEARNED THAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF FOOD IS ON THE WAY, TIMED TO ARRIVE IN JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER, JUST BEFORE THE ELECTION. THE FEAR ELEMENT HAS BEEN BUILDING UP FOR WEEKS WITH CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE, [redacted] AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE EASING OF VIOLENCE LAST WEEK. HE SPECULATES THAT THE POLITICAL GUNMEN MAY HAVE BEEN REINED IN, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, BY A NEW AND TOUGHER ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE POLICE.

6. CARL STONE EXPLAINS THE LIMP PNP SHOWING BY A MASSIVE DEFECTION FROM THE PARTY. HIS LATEST POLL, PUBLISHED JUNE 15 (QUESTIONS ASKED IN MAY), SHOWS A FURTHER INCREASE IN JLP STRENGTH. QUESTION: FOR WHOM WOULD YOU VOTE IF THE ELECTION WERE HELD TODAY?

	JLP	PNP
MAY	57.6 PERCENT	42.4 PERCENT
MARCH	56.5 PERCENT	43.4 PERCENT

[redacted]

[redacted]

HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 135732 PRINTER: LI
80 KINGSTON 4450

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 04 KINGST 04450 210528Z
LAWRENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED